

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/013800 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

A61B

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/022698

(22) International Filing Date: 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/487,554 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003) US

(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:

US 60/487,554 (CON)
Filed on 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003)

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US (patent), UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/013800 A2

(54) Title: ELEVATED HEDGEHOG PATHWAY ACTIVITY IN DIGESTIVE SYSTEM TUMORS, AND METHODS OF TREATING DIGESTIVE SYSTEM TUMORS HAVING ELEVATED HEDGEHOG PATHWAY ACTIVITY

(57) Abstract: Elevated Hedgehog (Hh) pathway activity, including ligand stimulated Hh pathway activity, was detected in digestive tract cancers, including esophagus, stomach, biliary tract, and pancreatic cancer, and determined to be associated with growth and proliferation of the cancer cells. Accordingly, methods are provided for treating a digestive tract cancer associated with elevated Hh pathway activity by reducing or inhibiting the Hh pathway activity. Also provided are methods of determining the responsiveness of a digestive tract tumor to treatment with an Hh pathway antagonist.